

# Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report



# State of Mississippi

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WAYNE O. BURKES, Chairman Brandon - Third Congressional District

> MENDAL G. KEMP Madison - At Large

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JAMES H. GARNER, Vice Chairman Biloxi - Fifth Congressional District

JAMES R. RICHMOND McComb - Fourth Congressional District

# State Veterans Affairs Board

December 22, 2013

Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor: Members of the Mississippi Legislature:

RE: Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report

I have the honor to present the Annual Report of the Mississippi State Veterans Affairs Board for Fiscal Year 2013- (July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013) which provides information concerning our activities and the benefits provided to Mississippi veterans and their dependents.

Nation-wide the number of World War II veterans continues to decline as they die at a rate of nearly 1,000 per day. Based on current population trends and available actuarial data, most will be gone in the next ten (10) The number of young Mississippi Veterans has increased with an average of 5,000 Mississippi servicemen and women discharged from the Armed Forces each of the last few years. The current Middle East conflict makes it clear that we will not run out of veterans nor should we diminish the assistance provided to these men and woman who have sacrificed so must to protect our freedom.

The Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board strives to provide courteous, effective and caring service to our Veterans and their families and to develop positive relationships with federal, state and county officials to secure the greatest benefit for our veterans. As our State's Veteran population and their needs continue to change and evolve, our resources and services must also evolve to be available when those who have served need them most. We are committed to working with our leaders at both the State and Federal level to ensure our Mississippi Heroes receive the benefits they deserve.

Very respectfully submitted,

**Executive Director** 

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The need for service work for veterans and their dependents in the State of Mississippi was recognized as a duty of the State during 1924, when the Legislature established and provided funds for a State Service Commissioner. The duties and functions of this office were to aid all residents of Mississippi who served in the military forces of the United States during any war, their dependents and beneficiaries to receive all the benefits to which they were entitled under the laws of the United States.

This small agency was inadequate to provide the full-time statewide service necessary for the five-fold increase in Veterans population brought on by World War II. Therefore; in 1948 the Legislature created the State Veterans Affairs Board to provide additional assistance to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and their dependents.

Veterans' laws and programs are undergoing constant change. Every opportunity to inform veterans and beneficiaries of those changes is utilized. Outreach through County Veteran Service Officers is utilized, along with newsletters and press releases. Veterans Service Officers are available to Veterans organizations and other organized groups as speakers on Veterans benefits, problems, and other related matters.

Our employees at the State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Newton, the VA Regional Office in Jackson, the VA Medical Centers in Biloxi, Jackson and Memphis and the four Veterans Homes at Collins, Jackson, Kosciusko and Oxford strive to provide the very best assistance to veterans and their families. When necessary our employees will visit veterans in their homes to help with paperwork, especially when the veteran or wife are unable to drive or confined to their home by disabilities.

Many times elderly veterans or widows have difficulty understanding VA letters or forms and depend upon our employees to assist with completion of forms or help in gathering needed documentation to support claims. Our service officers assist claimants in person, via telephone, by e mail, at hearings and by submitting written briefs or statements on their behalf

Employees in the four State Veterans Homes strive to provide the very best in nursing home care for our elderly, disabled veterans. This hands-on work requires compassion, dedication and a desire to help those who cannot help themselves- it takes a servants heart to do this work. It is heartbreaking that many of the patients' family members and friends have passed on and in some cases they have been abandoned by the families.

As policies, procedures and laws change so do the Veterans we serve. The WWII, Korean and Vietnam veteran is of retirement age and needs assistance applying for pension and medical benefits. At the other end of the spectrum, we have the Persian Gulf veteran who is skeptical, has more questions and is critical of government services.

State Veterans Affairs Board employees must be flexible in delivering services to veterans through the use of interviews, casework, advocacy, and public speaking. The Vietnam and Persian Gulf veteran requires a different approach from that used in talking to the World War II or Korean veteran. A veteran comes to us for a specific answer to his personal questions or problems. We must listen with patience and understanding and evaluate the problems to provide the needed services or answers. A Veterans Service Officer shows genuine personal interest in the problems of the claimant and is the veteran's advocate with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

We believe that the reporting of this data will be of benefit to members of state government and other interested offices and persons throughout the State. This report contains statistical information of activities of many and varied programs offered to veterans and their dependents within the State of Mississippi.

# Profile of Mississippi Veterans

There are approximately 227,335 veterans living in Mississippi today and an estimated 568,338 dependents potentially eligible for benefits based on a veterans military service. Approximately twenty seven (27) percent of Mississippi's population is potentially eligible for Veterans benefits. Nearly 74% of Mississippi's living Veterans served during some war-time period that includes WWII, Korea, the Vietnam era and the current Gulf War era. Sadly, based on current population trends, our State's WWII and Korean War Veterans who are mostly in their 80's (and beyond) will all be gone in the next 10-15 years.

Total U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs expenditures in Mississippi during federal FY 2012 amounted to \$1,276,247,000 of which \$581,099,000 was paid directly to Veterans and eligible dependents as compensation, pension, education, vocational rehabilitation or insurance benefits. VA Medical Centers treated 69,060 veterans in Mississippi and spent \$560,906,000 in federal FY 2012 to provide medical care for Mississippi veterans.

#### Why A State Agency to Assist Veterans and Dependents

If Veterans benefits were granted automatically and applicants did not encounter frustration and obstacles in filing claims there would be no need for the State assistance. However, human error, poor advice and complicated research issues create the need for professional claims service.

#### **Administrative Division**

The Administrative Division is located in Pearl, MS, and provides personnel, purchasing, fiscal, data processing, fleet management, policy, planning, and public relations services for the agency as a whole. The Division maintains electronic copies of discharges for individuals recently released from service who list Mississippi as their home of record and electronic copies of MS draft records from World War II through post-Korea, maintains records of some WWII - present day military discharges, Killed In Action and other military deaths records and certifies Prisoner of War and Medal of Honor status. The Administrative Division can provide speakers for groups or meetings and advises the legislature, governor and veterans organizations about Veterans issues.

#### **Claims Division**

The Claims Division is located in the VA Regional Office next door to the VA Medical Center in Jackson and provides free assistance to veterans and dependents with VA claims, casework, hearings, appeals, discharge upgrades, and is responsible for the training of county Veterans Service Officers. Claims Division employees are accredited representatives for: American Ex-Prisoners of War, American Legion, American Red Cross, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Claims Division has service offices located in the VA Medical Centers in Biloxi, Jackson and Memphis which provide assistance to veterans and dependents with VA claims, medical care problems, hospitalization, hearings and other issues.

#### **State Veterans Nursing Home Division**

The State Veterans Nursing Home Division consists of four 150 bed State Veterans Nursing Homes located at Collins, Jackson, Kosciusko and Oxford. The State Veterans Nursing Homes provide skilled and intermediate nursing care to eligible veterans and spouses.

Eligible veterans are those who served on active duty and who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions and spouses of veterans residing in the Homes. Admission preference is given to wartime veterans who are (or were) residents of Mississippi. Peacetime veterans are admitted if there are no wartime veterans seeking admission.

# **State Approving Agency Division**

The State Approving Agency Division is located in our administrative office on Highway 80 East in Pearl, MS, and is responsible for inspecting, supervising and approving programs of education and training for veterans receiving GI Bill educational benefits. The personnel of this Division annually inspect programs of education at universities, colleges, community and junior colleges, vocational-technical schools, flight schools, on the job training programs, etc., and must approve those programs and work to prevent fraud.

# **State Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

The State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Newton County is open for in-ground burial of casketed remains and in-ground or columbarium internment of cremated remains. The cemetery is located approximately three (3) miles east of Newton on Highway 80.

Veterans, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in the cemetery. Burial for veterans is at no cost unless the burial involves re-internment from another cemetery and the VA burial allowance has already been paid. A fee must be paid to bury non-veteran spouses and eligible children. VA provides a free grave marker and perpetual care is provided at no cost.

# Mississippi Persian Gulf War Memorial

The Mississippi Persian Gulf War Memorial is located on the grounds of the State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Newton and was established to honor the sacrifices of Mississippi Heroes who gave their lives while serving in the Persian Gulf War Theater of Operations. The memorial includes etched photographs of the casualties, a large bronze Battle Field Cross and a sitting area.

# 1. Scope

Every veteran is eligible, or is a potential claimant, for some type of VA benefit. In addition, it is estimated by the VA that for every veteran there are 2.5 other persons who are potentially entitled to some benefit (members of the Veterans family and survivors of deceased veterans).

Total number of Mississippi Veterans	227,335
Total number of dependents & survivors	568,338
Total number of Mississippi citizens eligible or potentially entitled	795,673

Out of 100 persons living in Mississippi, 8 are veterans and 19 are potential dependents of a Veteran. Therefore, 27 out of every 100 persons in Mississippi are potential claimants for Veterans' benefits and may need our assistance in filing for VA benefits.

#### **Financial Statement**

# **Expenditures:**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$36,757,156
Commodities: Capital Outlay, Equipment& Vehicles:	\$3,823,576.00 \$158,252.00
Contractual Services:	\$12,018,712.00
Subsidies, Loans & Grants:	\$1,120,744.00
Travel:	\$62,449.00
Personal Services:	\$19,573,423.00

# **Revenues:**

State General Funds: \$,6588,839.00

Federal Funds: \$21,044,763.00

Other Funds: \$11,157,254.00

**TOTAL REVENUES:** \$38,790,856.00

# State Veterans Affairs Board - Services Provided July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

#### 1. Claims Division

Incoming/Outgoing Mail: 46,713

Consultations with VA Personnel: 4,655

Office Interviews: 12,909

Hearings Attended: 305

Case Files Reviewed: 53,790

Telephone Calls: 71,869

Claims Handled: 22,373

Appeals Filed: 377

County Veterans Service Officers Certified: 87

#### 2. Veterans Homes

Days of Nursing Home Care Provided: 208,405

Average Occupancy Rate: 95%

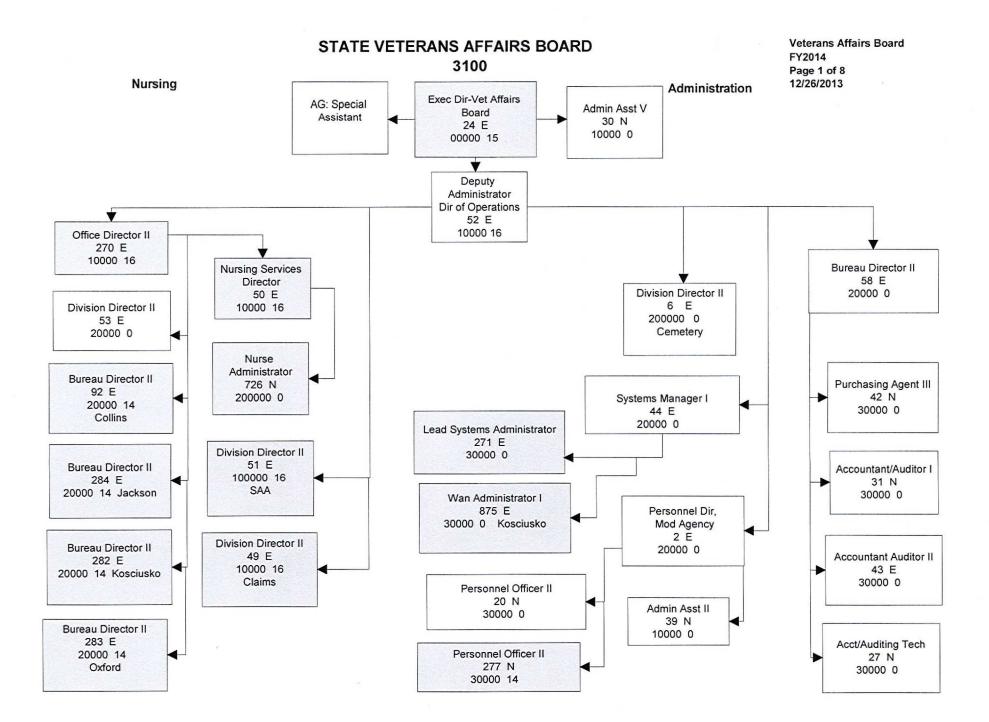
Federal Reimbursement: \$19,946,299.00

Veteran Care Payments: \$10,730,022.00

# 3. State Approving Agency

School Inspections: 88

Federal Reimbursement: 126,301.00



# FY12 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

								SSIPPI es in \$000s								
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	8	ompensation & Pension		Construction		Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment		Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities		Medical Care		Unique Patients**
ADAMS	2,459	\$ 15,974	_	7,197	\$	54	\$	424	\$		\$ 457	\$		\$	7,749	1,141
ALCORN	2,293	\$ 12,786		8,232	\$	-	\$	335	\$		\$ 349	\$		\$	3,769	591
AMITE	1,165	\$ 5,037	\$	1,882	\$	-	\$	214	\$		\$ -	\$		\$	2,931	430
ATTALA	1,424	\$ 11,196		5,505	\$	-	\$	152	\$	-	\$ -	\$	65	\$	5,475	561
BENTON	518	\$ 1,983		970	\$	-	\$	80	\$	-	\$ -	\$	13	\$	919	109
BOLIVAR	2,120	\$ 9,814		5,129	\$	-	\$	527	\$		\$ -	\$	63	\$	4,095	563
CALHOUN	999	\$ 5,007	\$	3,167	\$	-	\$	149	\$		\$ -	\$	18	\$	1,672	283
CARROLL	853	\$ 3,114		1,552	\$	-	\$	155	\$		\$ -	\$	38	\$	1,368	203
CHICKASAW	1,077	\$ 5,339		3,082	\$	-	\$	240	\$		\$ -	\$	101	\$	1,916	300
CHOCTAW	706	\$ 3,247		1,565	\$	-	\$	82	\$		\$ 	\$		\$	1,528	242
CLAIBORNE	552	\$ 3,619		1,169	\$	-	\$	102	\$		\$ -	\$	258	\$	2,090	185
CLARKE	1,375	\$ 6,456		3,742	\$	-	\$	362	\$		\$ -	\$	22	\$	2,331	456
CLAY	1,457	\$ 5,447		2,792	\$	-	\$	334	\$		\$ -	\$	6	\$	2,315	421
COAHOMA	1,428	\$ 7,150		3,853	\$	-	\$	397	\$		\$ -	\$	32	\$	2,869	456
COPIAH	1,966	\$ 16,013		7,292	\$	-	\$	614	\$		\$ -	\$		\$	7,971	909
COVINGTON	1,333	\$ 10,389	\$	5,345	\$	-	\$	371	\$		\$ -	\$		\$	4,650	564
DE SOTO	15,001	\$ 49,532	_	22,717	\$	-	\$	4,323	\$		\$ -	\$	499	\$	21,993	2,677
FORREST	6,035	\$ 42,527	\$	23,037	\$	-	\$	6,052	\$		\$ -	\$		\$	12,753	1,766
FRANKLIN	633	\$ 2,863		1,356	\$	-	\$	119	\$		\$ -	\$	111	\$	1,276	234
GEORGE	1,783	\$ 8,614		4,975	\$	-	\$	479	\$		\$ -	\$		\$	3,029	455
GREENE	1,173	\$ 3,771	\$	1,878	\$	-	\$	151	\$		\$ -	\$		\$	1,711	236
GRENADA	1,629	\$ 8,653	\$	4,101	\$	-	\$	433	\$		\$ -	\$	32	\$	4,088	538
HANCOCK	4,752	\$ 21,689	\$	9,279	\$	-	\$	1,205	\$	-	\$ -	\$	149	\$	11,056	1,221
HARRISON	21,652	\$ 179,842	\$	76,712	\$	12,573	\$	16,114	\$	-	\$ 5,463	\$	1,616	\$	67,363	6,985
HINDS	16,121	\$ 157,797	\$	45,709	\$	1,877	\$	6,761	\$	-	\$ 22,762	\$	733	\$	79,956	6,658
HOLMES	964	\$ 6,170	\$	2,700	\$	-	\$	217	\$	-	\$ -	\$	14	\$	3,240	369
HUMPHREYS	444	\$ 3,853	\$	1,436	\$	-	\$	139	\$	-	\$ -	\$	2	\$	2,277	197
ISSAQUENA	138	\$ 253	\$	42	\$	-	\$	26	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$	185	22
ITAWAMBA	1,676	\$ 6,232	\$	3,661	\$	-	\$	403	\$	-	\$ -	\$	40	\$	2,128	454
JACKSON	15,455	\$ 63,963	\$	32,221	\$	-	\$	5,894	\$	-	\$ -	\$	795	\$	25,054	3,439
JASPER	1,231	\$ 7,554		3,697	\$	-	\$	249	\$	-	\$ -	\$	23		3,585	404
JEFFERSON	479	\$ 2,594	\$	1,238	\$	-	\$	113	\$	-	\$ -	\$	10	\$	1,233	167
JEFFERSON DAVIS	957	\$ 4,541		1,955	\$	-	\$	257	\$	-	\$ -	\$	12	\$	2,317	268
JONES	4,528	\$ 25,413	\$	13,296	\$	-	\$	1,151	\$	-	\$ -	\$	117	\$	10,849	1,545
KEMPER	638	\$ 2,623		1,370	\$	-	\$	182	\$	-	\$ -	\$	31	\$	1,040	188
LAFAYETTE	2,887	\$ 10,945	\$	4,954	\$	-	\$	1,942	\$	-	\$ -	\$	247	\$	3,801	563
LAMAR	3,933		_	7,002		-	\$	889	_		\$ -	\$		\$	6,256	1,098
LAUDERDALE	6,729			16,625		-	\$	2,232	_		\$ -	\$		\$	11,519	2,085
LAWRENCE	1,030		\$	3,924	-	-	\$	362	_		\$ -	\$	19	\$	3,612	419

# FY12 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

					SSISSIPPI litures in \$00	0s						
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	pensation Pension	Construction	Education Vocationa Rehabilitation Employme	& I on/	Loan Guaranty#	General Operatin Expense	g	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
LEAKE	1,038	\$ 9,338	\$ 4,479	\$ -			\$ -	\$	-	\$ 31	\$ 4,403	534
LEE	5,719	\$ 21,797	\$ 13,240	\$ -	\$ 1,2		\$ -	\$	-	\$ 246	\$ 7,074	1,426
LEFLORE	1,482	\$ 8,051	\$ 4,000	\$ -	· ·		\$ -	\$	-	\$ 97	\$ 3,467	542
LINCOLN	2,376	\$ 15,582	5,782	\$ -			\$ -	\$	-	\$ 134	\$ 9,218	955
LOWNDES	5,220	\$ 30,172	\$ 17,372	\$ -	\$ 2,0		\$ -	\$	-	\$ 148	\$ 10,625	1,810
MADISON	5,927	\$ 32,535	\$ 13,051	\$ -	\$ 1,9		\$ -	\$	-	\$ 372	\$ 17,163	1,967
MARION	1,854	\$ 9,806	\$ 5,196	\$ -			\$ -	\$	-	\$ 97	\$ 4,173	581
MARSHALL	2,369	\$ 11,944	\$ 5,712	\$ -	\$ 4	34	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 57	\$ 5,740	654
MONROE	2,921	\$ 11,745	\$ 7,166	\$ -			\$ -	\$	-	\$ 90	\$ 4,050	789
MONTGOMERY	828	\$ 5,106	\$ 2,509	\$ -		30	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 59	\$ 2,307	355
NESHOBA	1,867	\$ 10,403	\$ 5,735	\$ -	\$ 4	10	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 238	\$ 4,021	618
NEWTON	2,015	\$ 8,818	\$ 4,435	\$ -	\$ 5	24	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 147	\$ 3,711	618
NOXUBEE	551	\$ 2,450	\$ 1,248	\$ -	\$ 1	47	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 52	\$ 1,003	135
OKTIBBEHA	2,466	\$ 10,666	\$ 4,591	\$ -	\$ 2,6	03	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 288	\$ 3,184	601
PANOLA	1,972	\$ 10,109	\$ 5,465	\$ -	\$ 5	17	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 62	\$ 4,065	560
PEARL RIVER	5,523	\$ 26,758	\$ 13,861	\$ -	\$ 1,0	39	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 143	\$ 11,715	1,503
PERRY	1,074	\$ 4,072	\$ 2,374	\$ -	\$ 1	49	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 19	\$ 1,529	257
PIKE	2,975	\$ 16,615	\$ 7,746	\$ -	\$ 6	00	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 41	\$ 8,229	1,139
PONTOTOC	1,888	\$ 7,796	\$ 4,893	\$ -	\$ 1	92	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 92	\$ 2,620	569
PRENTISS	1,722	\$ 6,637	\$ 3,924	\$ -	\$ 1	77	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 131	\$ 2,405	427
QUITMAN	489	\$ 3,272	\$ 1,821	\$ -	\$ 1	33	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 37	\$ 1,281	144
RANKIN	11,772	\$ 61,224	\$ 23,846	\$ -	\$ 3,7	61	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 842	\$ 32,775	3,649
SCOTT	1,576	\$ 11,524	\$ 4,800	\$ -	\$ 3	50	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 73	\$ 6,301	656
SHARKEY	313	\$ 1,291	\$ 680	\$ -	\$ 1	00	\$ -	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 511	112
SIMPSON	2,025	\$ 13,335	\$ 5,882	\$ -	\$ 5	97	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 64	\$ 6,792	766
SMITH	1,047	\$ 5,359	\$ 2,453	\$ -	\$ 2	28	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 13	\$ 2,666	282
STONE	1,698	\$ 10,069	\$ 4,935	\$ -	\$ 5	45	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 87	\$ 4,502	464
SUNFLOWER	1,661	\$ 6,968	\$ 2,852	\$ -	\$ 4	33	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 41	\$ 3,643	439
TALLAHATCHIE	814	\$ 3,163	\$ 1,367	\$ -	\$ 2	20	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 23	\$ 1,554	200
TATE	2,233	\$ 10,122	\$ 4,311	\$ -	\$ 3	70	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 54	\$ 5,387	538
TIPPAH	1,474	\$ 6,184	\$ 3,617	\$ -	\$ 2	23	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 21	\$ 2,323	343
TISHOMINGO	1,536		3,879	\$ -			\$ -	\$	-	\$ 126		319
TUNICA	487	\$ 4,795	\$ 2,353			12	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 20		214
UNION	1,882	. ,	 3,885				\$ -	\$	-	\$ 18		464
WALTHALL	979		2,193				\$ -	\$	-	\$ 18		358
WARREN	3,852	. ,	 6,841				\$ -	\$	-	\$ 139		1,065
WASHINGTON	3,143		 7,579				\$ -	\$	-	\$ 86		1,310
WAYNE	1,469		2,833				\$ -	\$	-	\$ 25		408
WEBSTER	860		3,153				\$ -	\$		\$ 15		277

#### FY12 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

	MISSISSIPPI Expenditures in \$000s																	
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Exp	Total penditure		ompensation & Pension		Construction		Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment		Loan Guaranty#		General Operating Expenses		surance & ndemnities	Medical Care		Unique Patients**
WILKINSON	503	\$	2,582	\$	1,148	\$	-	\$	62	\$	-	\$	-	\$	6	\$	1,365	162
WINSTON	1,420	\$	7,996	\$	3,353	\$	-	\$	161	\$	-	\$	-	\$	304	\$	4,179	516
YALOBUSHA	990	\$	6,455	\$	3,986	\$	-	\$	165	\$	-	\$	-	\$	20	\$	2,284	267
YAZOO	1,733	\$	11,703	\$	4,194	\$	-	\$	314	\$	-	\$	-	\$	52	\$	7,142	665
MISSISSIPPI (Totals)	227,335	\$	1,276,247	\$	581,099	\$	14,503	\$	78,967	\$	-	\$	29,032	\$	11,741	\$	560,906	69,060
CONG. DIST (01)	59,048	\$	250,115	\$	135,800	\$	-	\$	14,606	\$	-	\$	349	\$	2,196	\$	97,163	14,621
CONG. DIST (02)	40,584	\$	292,147	\$	112,027	\$	1,514	\$	13,075	\$	-	\$	19,017	\$	1,596	\$	144,919	15,555
CONG. DIST (03)	55,433	\$	310,810	\$	132,688	\$	417	\$	16,742	\$	-	\$	3,745	\$	3,801	\$	153,417	18,497
CONG. DIST (04)	72,270	\$	423,176	\$	200,584	\$	12,573	\$	34,543	\$	-	\$	5,921	\$	4,148	\$	165,407	20,387
MISSISSIPPI (Totals)	227,335	\$	1,276,247	\$	581,099	\$	14,503	\$	78,967	\$	-	\$	29,032	\$	11,741	\$	560,906	69,060
Notes:																		

<sup>\*</sup> Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2012, are produced by the VA Office of the Actuary (VetPop 2011).

Expenditure data sources: USASpending.gov for Compensation & Pension (C&P) and Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (EVRE) Benefits; Veterans Benefits Administration Insurance Center for the Insurance costs; the VA Financial Management System (FMS) for Construction, Medical Research, General Operating Expenses, and certain C&P and Readjustment data; and the Allocation Resource Center (ARC) for Medical Care costs.

- 1. Expenditures are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. For example, \$500 to \$1,000 are rounded to \$1; \$0 to \$499 are rounded to \$0; and "\$ -" = 0 or no expenditures.
- 2. The Compensation & Pension expenditures include dollars for the following programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for nonservice-connected disabilities; and burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.
- 3. Medical Care expenditures include dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, educational support, research support, and other overhead items. Medical Care expenditures do not include dollars for construction or other non-medical support.
- 4. Medical Care expenditures are based on where patients live instead of where care is delivered.

<sup>#</sup> Prior to FY 08, "Loan Guaranty" expenditures were included in the Education & Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (E&VRE) programs. Currently, all "Loan Guaranty" expenditures are attributed to Travis County, TX, where all Loan Guaranty payments are processed. VA will continue to improve data collection for future GDX reports to better distribute loan expenditures at the state, county and congressional district levels.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Unique patients are patients who received treatment at a VA health care facility. Data are provided by the Allocation Resource Center (ARC).